



PHOTO: REUTERS

From left, Eikei Suzuki, Governor of the Mie Prefecture, European Council President Donald Tusk, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, US President Barack Obama, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, French President Francois Hollande, British Prime Minister David Cameron, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, participate in a tree planting session during a visit to the Ise Jingu shrine in Ise, Mie Prefecture, Japan, yesterday.

## HIROSHIMA SURVIVORS' TALES 'I still hate the glow of the setting sun'

AFP, Hiroshima

For survivors of the world's first nuclear attack, the day America unleashed a terrible bomb over the city of Hiroshima remains seared forever in their minds.

Though their numbers are dwindling and the advancing years are taking a toll, their haunting memories are undimmed by the passage of more than seven decades.

On the occasion of Barack Obama's offering of a floral tribute today at the cenotaph in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park -- the first ever visit by a sitting US president -- some of them share their stories with AFP.

The bombing claimed the lives of 140,000 people, some of whom died immediately, while many succumbed to injuries or radiation-related illnesses in the weeks, months and years afterwards.

**Emiko Okada:** Now 79, she was about 2.8 kilometres (1.7 miles) from ground zero and suffered severe injuries in the blast. Her sister was killed.

"All of a sudden a flash of light brightened the sky and I was slammed to the ground. I didn't know what on earth had happened. There were fires everywhere. We rushed away as the blaze roared toward us.

"The people I saw looked nothing like human beings. Their skin and flesh hung loose. Some children's eyeballs were popping out of their sockets.

"I still hate to see the glow of the setting sun. It reminds me of that day and brings pain to my heart."

**Keiko Ogura:** Now 78, she has devoted her life to keeping alive the memory of the devastating day.

"Shortly after (the bomb exploded) it rained. It was a sticky black rain and made my clothes wet.

"I saw a line of seriously burnt people, like silent ghosts. Suddenly, a girl grabbed my leg and said in a weak voice: 'Give me water.' Others also said: 'Water. Water. I brought water to them, but some died right after they drank it. I regretted giving it to them.'

"We faced the horror (of nuclear weapons). I tell everybody that it was hell. But they don't understand. There is no peace in Hiroshima. There is horror here."

**Sunao Tsuboi:** Now 91, he is co-chairperson of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations. He suffered serious burns and developed cancer and other diseases, but remains active in his lifelong campaign for a nuclear free world.

"An apology doesn't matter. I just want (President Obama) to come and visit Hiroshima and see real things and listen to the voice of survivors."



## Leaders 'rattled' by Trump: Obama

BBC ONLINE

US President Barack Obama yesterday said that international leaders "have good reason to be rattled" by pronouncements made by the Republican White House contender, Donald Trump.

Speaking on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Japan, Obama said Trump had shown a cavalier and ignorant attitude towards world affairs.

Obama said foreign leaders were surprised by his nomination.

There has so far been no response from the billionaire businessman.

"They are not sure how seriously to take some of his pronouncements, but they're rattled by him - and for good reason, because a lot of the proposals that he's made display either ignorance of world affairs or a cavalier attitude," the president said.

"[He only has] an interest in getting tweets and headlines instead of actually thinking through what it is that is required to keep America safe and secure and prosperous and what's required to keep the world on an even keel."

The president also downplayed Democratic party concerns about the long-running primary fight between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders.

He pointed out that occasionally in a primary "people get grumpy".

But he insisted that one of the main differences between Democrats and Republicans this year is the fact that Democratic candidates are not so far apart ideologically.

## Trump hits the magic number

AP report says the billionaire now has enough delegate to be the GOP nominee

AP, Washington

Donald Trump reached the number of delegates needed to clinch the Republican nomination for president yesterday, completing an unlikely rise that has upended the political landscape and set the stage for a bitter fall campaign.

Trump was put over the top in the Associated Press delegate count by a small number of the party's unbound delegates who told the AP they would support him at the national convention in July. Among them is Oklahoma GOP chairwoman Pam Pollard.

"I think he has touched a part of our electorate that doesn't like where our country is," Pollard said. "I have no problem supporting Mr Trump."

It takes 1,237 delegates to win the Republican nomination. Trump has reached 1,238. With 303 delegates at stake in five state primaries on June 7, Trump will easily pad his total, avoiding a contested convention in Cleveland.

Trump, a political neophyte who for years delivered caustic commentary on the state of the nation from the sidelines but had never run for office, fought off 16 other Republican contenders in an often ugly primary race.

Many on the right have been slow to warm to Trump, wary of his conservative bona fides. Others worry about his crass personality and the lewd comments he's made about women.

But millions of grass-roots activists, many of them outsiders to the political process, have embraced Trump as a plain-speaking populist who is not afraid to offend.



Steve House, chairman of the Colorado Republican Party and an unbound delegate who confirmed his support of Trump to the AP, said he likes the billionaire's background as a businessman.

"Leadership is leadership," House said. "If he can surround himself with the political talent, I think he will be fine."

Trump's pivotal moment comes amid a new sign of internal problems.

Hours before clinching the nomination, he announced the abrupt departure of political director Rick Wile, who was in the midst of leading the campaign's push to hire staff in key battleground states. In a statement, Trump's campaign said Wile had been hired only on a short-term basis until the candidate's organization "was running full steam."

His hiring about six weeks ago was seen as a sign that party veterans were embracing Trump's campaign. A person familiar with Wile's ouster said the operative clashed with others in Trump's operation and didn't want to put longtime Trump allies in key jobs. The person insisted on anonymity because the person was not authorized to publicly discuss the internal campaign dynamics.

Some delegates who confirmed their decisions to back Trump were tepid at best, saying they are supporting him out of a sense of obligation because he won their state's primary.

Cameron Linton of Pittsburgh said he will back Trump on the first ballot since he won the presidential primary vote in Linton's congressional district.

## China 'to send nuke subs in Pacific'

AGENCIES

China is to send nuclear missile submarines to the Pacific as deterrence amid mounting tensions with the US, a report says.

Citing military sources in Beijing, the Guardian newspaper says a Chinese nuclear deterrence patrol mission in the region is "inevitable" in response to US plans to station new weapons systems in the region.

China has been irked in particular by Washington's intention to place an anti-ballistic missile system in South Korea.

The two countries are also at loggerheads in the South China Sea, with the US conducting several "freedom of navigation" exercises in the region to challenge Chinese territorial claims.



Iraqi pro-government forces fire an anti-tank cannon near al-Sejar village, north-east of Fallujah, on Wednesday, as they take part in a major assault to retake the city from the Islamic State group.

## Dozens feared dead in shipwreck off Libya

EU says Turkey's 'threats' over migrant deal won't work

AFP, Rome

Up to 30 people are feared dead after a shipwreck off Libya, while some 50 migrants have been rescued from the waves, the EU's naval force said yesterday.

"We estimate the dead to be between 20 and 30 people," captain Antonello de Renzi Sonnino, spokesman for the EU's Sophia military operation to combat people smugglers in the Mediterranean, told AFP.

"A Luxembourg reconnaissance plane spotted a capsized boat around 35 nautical miles off the Libyan coast with about 100 migrants in the water or clinging to the sinking vessel," he said.

The Spanish frigate Reina Sofia and Italian coast guard raced to the scene and threw life-floats and jackets to those in the water.

"Unfortunately there were bodies too," de Renzi Sonnino said, adding that the rescue operation was still ongoing.

In photographs released by EUNAVFOR MED on Twitter, migrants could be seen waving their arms for help as they balance perilously on the deck of the boat, already underwater but clearly visible in the limpid aquamarine sea.

The shipwreck followed sharply on the heels of a disaster Wednesday when a migrant boat overturned leaving five people dead.

Meanwhile, a top EU official said yesterday that Turkey must uphold its side of a deal made with the European Union over stemming the flow of migrants, warning "threats" against the bloc will not work.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said Ankara must ease strict anti-terror laws if it wants its citizens to enjoy visa-free travel on the continent.

Juncker was speaking after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday warned the European Union his parliament would block laws related to the landmark deal if it didn't get its way on visa liberalisation.

"We do expect that Turkey will stick to its commitments -- and threats are not the best diplomatic instrument you can use," Juncker told reporters in Ise-Shima, where he is attending the G7 summit.

"So one should stop to use them, because they will produce no effect whatsoever."

Juncker's outburst came after Erdogan dug his heels in over growing indications that a deal to grant Turks the right to travel freely in Europe looked to be faltering.

### MIGRANT CRISIS

## Syria tops Russia-Arab Gulf meeting agenda

Concerns mount for civilians in Iraq's Fallujah

AGENCIES

Arab Gulf leaders have held talks with Russia's foreign minister in Moscow as part of renewed efforts to stop the war in Syria.

Yesterday's meeting between Sergey Lavrov and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers comes as rebels in northern Syria continue to make slow progress in their campaign to evict the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, or ISIS) armed group from its stronghold in the city of Raqqa.

Al Jazeera's Rory Challands, reporting from Moscow, said Syria is expected to dominate the meeting. However, there are "still very big differences" between the two sides - which are meeting for the fourth time - on the issue of Syria, he said.

Meanwhile, the United Nations said in a statement released yesterday that only 800 people have been able to flee Fallujah since Iraqi forces launched a major offensive to retake the city.

Lise Grande, the UN's humanitarian coordinator for Iraq, said that those who managed to leave the city occupied by the Islamic State group reported dire living conditions inside, reports AFP.

"We are receiving distressing reports of civilians trapped inside Fallujah who are desperate to escape to safety, but can't," the statement quoted her as saying.

The UN said that only 800 people had been able to flee Fallujah since May 22, "mostly from outlying areas".

"Some families report having to walk for hours under harrowing conditions to reach safety. People trapped in the city centre are thought to be most at risk - unable to flee," the UN said.

Grande said that those who managed to flee told of a dire situation inside the city, which lies only 50 kilometres (30 miles) west of the capital Baghdad.

## Can UN have its first female chief?

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The campaign to elect a woman to lead the United Nations for the first time in its history is gathering pace with the field of official candidates for the job now evenly split between the genders.

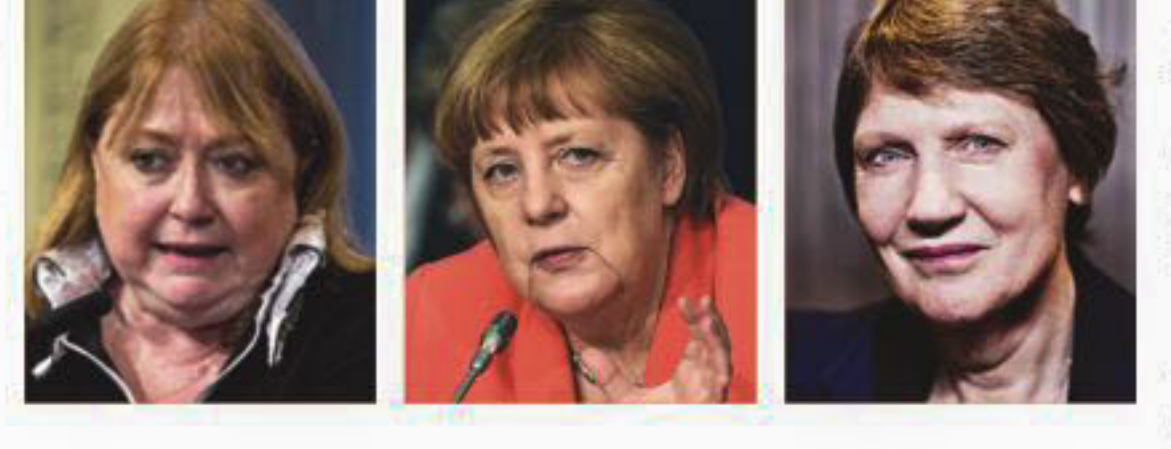
With the second term of Ban Ki-Moon set to expire at the end of 2016, the final decision on who should replace him will ultimately rest with the five veto-wielding members of the UN Security Council. London has openly supported finding a female Secretary General.

The contest of the world's diplomat-in-chief has become at least partially transparent this time around with candidates being asked to make public pitches to the UN General Assembly. A first round of presentations happened in April; a second batch of runners will be heard next month.

Unprecedented for certain, meanwhile, is the interest being shown in potentially picking a woman. After the Foreign Minister of Argentina, Susana Malcorra, a veteran of the UN system and a former Chief of Staff to Ban, announced on 20 May her intention to seek the position, the full field of candidates became gender-balanced, with five men and five women running.

All eight Secretaries General so far have been men.

The UN Security Council will have a first straw poll vote on whom among the candidates it might favour in July with the intention of revealing its final choice before the end of October. If there is no obvious consensus figure it is perfectly possible new candidates could jump in even at that last moment. One among those frequently mentioned is the German Chancellor Angela Merkel.



Because of her long experience with the UN system and a generally sound reputation within it, Malcorra's entry into the race is significant. Two things could stand in her way, however: Russia's insistence so far that the winning candidate must come from Eastern Europe and possible British reluctance to vote for an Argentinian because of the Falkland Islands.

Moscow's geographical preference could also crimp the candidacy of Helen Clark, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand and director of the UN Development Programme, UNDP.

Certainly one of the most high profile women in the UN system at the moment, Clark is also known to have made enemies at the UNDP, not least because of steps she took early on in her tenure significantly to reduce numbers at the agency's head office in New York.

That ruthless streak, as some describe it, could theoretically endear her to some governments who believe it's time to have a UN leader willing to tackle some of the organisation's bloat. On the other hand it runs up against an old adage that is applied to the murky business of choosing a UN leader: do the world powers really want a General or would they rather have a Secretary, who will be less likely to get too big for their boots?

That is a question that should also be applied to the persistent rumors about Ms Merkel. (Rumours is all they are since she has said nothing publicly about wanting to relinquish the chancellorship to take the post.)

Merkel is a woman and could almost pass as an Eastern European. (She has Polish blood and grew up in East Germany.) But would Moscow, London, Paris and Washington really want someone of such stature running the shop in New York?

## US nuke force still uses floppy disks

BBC ONLINE

The US nuclear weapons force still uses a 1970s-era computer system and 8-inch floppy disks, a government report has revealed.

The Government Accountability Office said the Pentagon was one of several departments where "legacy systems" urgently needed to be replaced.

The report said taxpayers spent \$61bn (£41bn) a year on maintaining ageing technologies. It said that was three times more than the investment on modern IT systems.

The report said that the Department of Defence systems that co-ordinated intercontinental ballistic missiles, nuclear bombers and tanker support aircraft "runs on an IBM Series-1 Computer - a 1970s computing system - and uses eight-inch floppy disks".

"This system remains in use because, in short, it still works," Pentagon spokeswoman Lt Col Valerie Henderson told the AFP news agency.

The report said that the Pentagon was planning to fully replace the system by the end of 2020.

According to the report, the US treasury also needed to upgrade its systems, which it said was using "assembly language code - a computer language initially used in the 1950s and typically tied to the hardware for which it was developed".

